

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 2, 2010 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger and CT Long Hill Lane residents Shankar Krishnan and Subashree Ragagopal.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2010 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

O. Raadam motioned to approve CTEC and Green Team minutes from December 1, 2009 and F. Esposito 2nd with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2010 AND JANUARY 2011.

Usually every first Tuesday, except no meeting in July, at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township municipal building. The dates are Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, July no meeting, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, 2010 and Jan 11, 2011.

EVENTS

- Thursday, February 4, 10 am, BPU Newark. Transmission Lines.
- Thursday, February 11, drinking water panel discussion and short film hosted by environmental commissions of Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. 7:30 p.m., Library of the Chathams, Main Street, Chatham Borough. Bring a sample of your drinking water for testing.
- Thursday, February 18, PSE&G public hearing on proposed upgrade to electric transmission line along existing rights-of-way. 6-8:30 p.m., Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, 199 Smith Road. Good opportunity to ask questions about the proposed Route B from Branchburg to Roseland through Long Hill and Chatham Township.
- Tuesday, March 9, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Health Conference, The Enterprise Center, Burlington County College, 3331 Route 38, Mount Laurel, NJ. \$75. www.sjrcd.org/soilhealth/.
- Saturday, March 13, ANJEC training workshop for new EC members. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Dodge Foundation building, 14 Maple Ave., Morristown. Free for CTEC members.
- Saturday, March 20, New Jersey Conservation Foundation Land Conservation Rally, Montclair State University Conference Center. njconservation.org. \$75 if register before March 5.
- Tuesday, June 22, Fourth Passaic River Symposium, Organized by the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University, Montclair State University Conference Center, 1 Normal Ave., Montclair, NJ, www.csam.montclair.edu/pri/conferences. \$95.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Green Team on achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification and the Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award for Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. Congratulations to S. Carroll for all his detailed work, P. Collington for her tireless education and outreach work, and to S. Hoag for the many hours she spent on the expanded recycling program and recycling collection shed, an SJ action item, and J. Matthews for her help with the Green Fair, energy audit and expanded recycling. Primary credit for Chatham Township's share of the Collaboration award should go to K. Abbott and P. Collington, who led both the Green Fair and anti-idling efforts.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (convened 7:25 pm – adjourned 8:10 pm)

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair.

Community Partners Initiative – Sustainable Jersey Actions – reviewed actions and points, designated responsible person for each goal. Set priorities towards achieving points with regards to what actions are attainable.

Municipal Energy Audit – draft approved by State Consultant.

Community Energy Outreach Training – 2/17 – Webinar – ANJEC 7 PM.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

- Open Space Committee report-S. Hoag: CT's Open Space Committee has a new Chairperson-Dana McClintock. Land in Chatham Twp purchased by Morris County Parks: end of Long Hill Lane, 28 acres, includes house, the house will be used for rangers, existing trails on property, public access is possible.
- Planning Board report-L. Caprioglio. Only reorg. meeting as of date. Reviewing by-laws for nomination of chair and v.chair.
- Township Committee-W. O'Connor: No report
- Community Education and Outreach Committee report-P.Collington: we are working on (1) water event (Feb. 11), (2) compost and rain barrel event (March), (3) recycling video contest for kids. Talking with schools PTO to inform them about CTEC and *Sustainable Jersey*, and to gain their support on different events, programs and projects.
- Recycling & ReUse Committee report-S. Hoag: Status quo, working on changing publicity
- Website Committee report-F. Esposito: New side bar items added, topographic maps on website.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Approve CTEC Annual Report for 2009 – O. Raadam motion to approve, S. Hoag 2nd with all in favor. (accepted with minor edits)
- CTEC goals for 2010- Review by email.

ISSUES

- Artificial turf at Shunpike Field. NJDEP has approved construction. Conservation easement required on lower portions of lot and on almost all of the adjoining lot. Tree buffer will be preserved and extra plantings made, field to be made smaller, bids have been received for material other than tire crumb as well as tire crumb. K. Abbott.
- NJCF conservation easements on township-owned land on Green Village Road. The Township is assuming responsibility and may take over ownership of the easements from NJCF. R. Barrett, D. Stillinger.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- NEW. 20 EVERGREEN ROAD, 1-27-2010, Block 50, Lot 6. Application to NJDEP for general permit authorization for placement of pavement or other impervious surface. Approve letter to DEP with minor edits. S. Carroll motioned to accept, P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor, this is 2nd letter, 1st letter sent 12/08. S. Hoag, D. Stillinger.
- PENDING. PSE&G application to NJDEP for wetlands and flood permits for vegetation management in transmission corridors. Approve 3 (identical) letters to NJDEP, to section chiefs Dan Bello, Richard Reilly and Lou Cattuna. S. Carroll motioned to accept, P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor. D. Stillinger.
- PENDING. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. 12-14-09. Bl. 135, Lots 1 & 9. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval and conditional use approval for a school in a residential zone. Demolition of several buildings and construction of a large new building as well as an enlarged parking area on steep slopes are proposed. At least 56 trees are proposed to be removed, and up to 115 if the northwestern area is disturbed, with only 22 proposed to be replaced. CTEC should continue urging Board of Adjustment to require a conservation easement on the northwestern 4 acres which are sloped and vegetated. At one time that area was disturbed but it has now regrown and settled into an established habitat. Some areas of soil have a minimal amount of chlordane and dieldrin from previous agricultural use; only one soil sample out of about two dozen tested had a level above the DEP minimum for non-residential remediation (1.2 ppm of chlordane where the DEP-required level is 1.0 ppm.) Physical remediation would not be needed if a conservation easement were placed on the northwestern 4 acres including the contaminated sites as that would constitute an Institutional Control under DEP rules. Hearing has been continued. S. Hoag, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger.
- PENDING. MAJMUDAR. 55 Mountain Ave. Block 37 Lot 5.01. Majmudar plans to sue unless he is granted approval to build a larger house than called for in the previous settlement agreement. Neighbors presented a detailed case against the application at a Planning Board meeting on December 7. No action by EC required right now.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2010. Letter to NJDEP regarding JCP&L application for wetlands permits for vegetation maintenance in wetlands along ROWs.
- December 2009. Letter to NJDEP requesting a public hearing on JCP&L's application for permits to disturb wetlands.
- November 2009. New conservation easement property owner letter sent to 42 Mountain Ave.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Wetlands application notice for applicant on Loantaka Lane North.
- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Various flyers, notices, and newsletters.
- Financial accounting statement through January 2010.
- ANJEC CD containing energy actions for towns.
- Two new ANJEC resource papers.
- Notice of availability of ANJEC planning grants.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:40 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli

Minutes Secretary